

Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo City School Districts Rank Top 3 Losers Nationwide Under Current Formula

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced her support of bipartisan legislation that would amend the current formula used to determine federal education funds so that the City School Districts in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse were no longer denied funding at the highest level nationwide.

Slaughter is an original cosponsor of the All Children are Equal (ACE) Act, [H.R. 2485](#), which would fix a formula used to determine funding for schools that currently diverts funding from higher poverty school districts to more populous school districts, regardless of poverty rates. The Rochester, Syracuse, and Buffalo City School Districts are the top 3 most underfunded school districts under the current formula.

In the 2008-2009 school year the Rochester City School District lost \$2.6 million, Syracuse just shy of \$2.3 million and Buffalo lost \$2.1 million. Further details and rankings are included below.

“While the funding formula currently used by the Department of Education was intended to be fair, it isn’t and the students in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse have suffered for it. The only fair thing to do is fix the formula,” said Slaughter. “What may seem like an unintended algorithmic consequence is really a matter of books and computers in classrooms. This bill would readjust the formula to ensure that all of our students are given the tools needed to succeed – regardless of the how big or small their school district is.”

The ACE Act would recalibrate the way formulas are calculated under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It would gradually phase out the current number weighting system used to calculate Title I amounts, to ensure that school districts are funded based upon their percentages of poverty, rather than population.

Currently, the weighting system has the perverse effect of diverting funding from higher-poverty local education agencies (LEAs) to lower-poverty LEAs, regardless of the actual poverty rate.

Over 10,000 school districts lose funding because of number weighting, and Western New York is hit particularly hard due to the current formula.

The ACE Act has the support of a diverse range of advocacy groups, which have rallied behind the bipartisan effort. The bill is supported by a wide coalition of educators and advocacy organizations including American Association of School Administrators, National Alliance of Black School Educators, National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Save the Children, American Farm Bureau Federation, and YouthBuild, USA.

Please see below for a table from the Rural School and Community Trust on funding allocation

under the 2008-09 weighted funding.

Antibacterial Drug Use in the United States

It was previously known that 13.1 million kilograms of antibacterial drugs were distributed in 2009 for use on animals.

Now Rep. Slaughter has confirmed that 3.3 million kilograms of antibacterial drugs were distributed in 2009 for human use.

That means that 80% of all antibacterial drugs in the United States are being distributed for use on animals, not to protect human health.

